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Morrison's Generosity Creates Beautiful Space

Summary: Morris's art gallery was recently named for its benefactors.

(October 14, 2013)-For nearly 40 years, the University of Minnesota, Morris's art gallery went without a formal name. This year the space received a new name and look as a result of two devoted campus benefactors' generosity. A [dedication](#) of the space was held on Saturday, October 12.

As thanks for nearly seven decades of generous support, the University elected to name the gallery after the donors who made its renovations and endowment possible: Edward J. and Helen Jane Morrison. The two were leaders in the community effort to establish the Morris campus during the 1950s. In the school's early years, the Morrisons were instrumental in procuring funding for operating expenses. Helen Jane also established the first concert series at Morris—a tradition that has grown into the reputed Performing Arts Series.

According to Maddy Maxeiner '76, vice chancellor for external relations, "it is fitting that the University of Minnesota, Morris unanimously approved the naming of the gallery to honor the Morrisons for their decades of significant philanthropy."

The Morrisons' gift provides for a new doorway and entryway desk as well as bench seating, movable walls, display cases, maple flooring, updated lighting, and overall painting. According to Michael Eble, associate professor of studio art and gallery curator, these changes will enhance the caliber of Morris's art gallery.

"[This] generous gift will allow the University's gallery to continue to be the finest space to exhibit and view art between the Twin Cities and Fargo," says Eble. "The gift will also help the gallery become more relevant within the region and state-wide."

Eble is referring to the recent endowment of the gallery, which ensures the curator's ability to attract and display higher quality artwork. A portion of the donors' gift will be used to enhance the funds available for bringing exhibits to campus each year.

The Edward J. and Helen Jane Morrison Gallery is open from 9 a.m.–8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m.–6 p.m. Friday, and from 1–5 p.m. Saturday. For more information, contact Michael Eble, gallery curator, at 320-589-6285 or meble@morris.umn.edu.

Edward J. and Helen Jane Morrison at the dedication of the gallery on October 12, 2013.

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow

intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.